

Yet that is what they are debating. People such as Arthur Fraijo are desperate for work, have been out of work all these years. Yet not a single thing they do creates jobs.

The legislation we will vote on at 3 o'clock will produce hundreds of thousands of jobs now.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. My good friend has made a great campaign speech, but the election is in November of next year. If we want to accomplish something, we have to do it together. We have had a series of votes over the last few weeks clearly designed to fail. The proposal my good friend is talking about, in all likelihood, is going to have bipartisan opposition. It was not developed with Republican input, and it was not designed to get a positive outcome.

The House of Representatives, on 15 different occasions recently, has passed bills with bipartisan support—bipartisan support—that we are not taking up. One of them—the 3-percent withholding bill—enjoys the support of the President of the United States as well. So it is my hope that in the very near future we can figure a way to actually pass something together that would become law.

I wish we could put off the election until next year because these efforts to do these messaging amendments, as politically invigorating as it may be to the base of the Democratic Party, don't have anything to do with actually passing legislation that could have a positive impact. So we will have the two votes today, but I would urge my good friend to join me in looking for things on which there is enough bipartisan support to actually make a law, not just try to make a point.

I am sure it is the case that most Americans support raising taxes on high-income individuals. My guess is they might have a different view if they knew that four out of five of those individuals were actually business owners. Nevertheless, it is time, it seems to me, for us to quit making the campaign speeches and remember the election is in November 2012, not this month of 2011, and see if we can't work together to pass legislation the President can sign and that will help move the country in a different direction.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, my friend, the Republican leader, comes before this body today and says we should do our campaign speeches next year when the world knows my friend has said his No. 1 priority in this Congress is to defeat President Obama.

We have had on the Senate floor for the last 10 months a campaign speech every day directed by my friend and his Republican colleagues in his caucus doing everything they can to make President Obama look bad and doing nothing to help our economy. Their goal is to do everything they can to drag down this economy, to do any-

thing they can to focus attention negatively on the President of the United States in hopes the minority leader can get my job, perhaps, and that President Obama will be defeated.

So let's not talk about campaign speeches on the Senate floor. Let's talk about reality. I do not believe we should be concerned about a piece of legislation that asks the richest of the rich to pay a few pennies of their vast fortunes to put people like my friend back to work. That is what this is all about. The American people agree with what we are doing. We are trying to have this government involved in things that create jobs, not slogans, not "let's get rid of those regulations" or do we believe in God or that kind of stuff.

That has not created a single job. What we want to do is create jobs. We also don't want to go back on the agreement we worked on for months regarding the deficit reduction plan and raising the debt ceiling, where we agreed on what our spending should be for this coming year. We will see how sincere my Republican colleagues are. The CR expires in 2 more weeks. The CR is the continuing resolution. Let's see if they go back on their word in that regard; that they will begin threatening to shut down the government if they do not get whatever slogan looks good during any specific period of time.

We have the FAA that is about to go out of business again because the Republicans are unwilling to pass a bill without some labor issue that has nothing to do with the bill that was passed—zero to do with it. Even the person who runs Delta Air Lines, that has been the focus of this, wants the FAA bill done. They recognize they have been hurt very badly by what the Republicans have done to focus attention on them—attention they do not want focused on them.

So I hope we can, on a bipartisan basis, do the things that are good for the country, and I think creating jobs is one of the most important things we should do. I would say to my friend: We can stay here all day, and I will get in the last word. We can extend to 11:20 now, but I will get in the last word in our conversation today.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, it is certainly the case the majority leader can always have the last word, but I would say, with all due respect to my friend, he just made another campaign speech.

I think what the American people would like to see us do is actually pass something together that will become law—pass something together that will become law. That is how to get an accomplishment out of the U.S. Constitution. That is how to send something to the President.

We know how to work together to make things happen. We have done that in the past. All I am suggesting is that the exercise we are going to have later today has nothing to do with

making law and making a difference. It is about making a point. We both know how to do that. We both know how to make points and make laws. What we are doing later today is not about making laws.

I am told by staff I need to move to proceed to S. 1786.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The motion will be pending.

The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I would finally say this: I hope we will have a new dawn arising soon where we will see my Republican friends break away from this lockstep they have been in. I can't imagine they believe they are doing the right thing by voting against asking the richest of the rich—.02 percent of the richest people in America—to contribute a small amount toward creating jobs in America. That is what this is all about.

I would hope someday we will see a few Republicans break from the pack and vote to create jobs rather than trying to defeat President Obama come next November.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### REBUILD AMERICA JOBS ACT— MOTION TO PROCEED

#### LONG-TERM SURFACE TRANSPORTATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2011—MOTION TO PROCEED

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 1769, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to the consideration of the bill (S. 1769) to put workers back on the job while rebuilding and modernizing America.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the time until 3 p.m. will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

The motion to proceed to S. 1786 is also the matter before the Senate.

The Senator from Utah is recognized.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, while I have been interested in the comments between the two leaders, I have to agree with the Republican leader that this is an exercise, in many ways, in futility because the bill brought forth by the other side has very little chance of passing through both Houses of Congress because it is a partisan bill.

Let me just mention a few things this morning. While growth remains sluggish in our economy, unemployment high, and job growth insufficient to drive unemployment lower, the number of pages in the *Federal Register* is at an all-time high. Pages devoted to final rules rose by 20 percent